

World Breast Feeding Week

August 1st – 7th, 2024

WHEREAS, families are a priority in Buncombe County and part of helping them thrive is ensuring they receive community support to develop and sustain healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American Academy of Family Physicians and other leading health organizations, breastfeeding is the optimal food for infants; and

WHEREAS, a mother's decision to breastfeed her baby should be supported by her family and community; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding is associated with lower rates of childhood illness, such as obesity, diabetes, and infectious diseases, as well as less maternal breast and ovarian cancers and diabetes and a faster recovery from childbirth as compared to formula feeding; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding promotes maternal-infant bonding and benefits the entire family and is associated with lifelong health and development;

WHEREAS, collaborating with healthcare providers and community resources, can positively impact breastfeeding success; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding protects the environment, which will preserve the beauty of the mountains and waterways; and

WHEREAS, a breastfeeding friendly community encourages families of all races and ethnicities to continue breastfeeding by providing a supportive and welcoming environment; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County was a proud participant of LatchAVL and the Buncombe County Breastfeeding Coalition at its Aug. 3 community event; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the persistent inequities in our community's birth outcomes, where Black babies in Buncombe County are nearly 2.4 times as likely to die in the first year of life as white babies, a breast feeding friendly community could be an antidote to tragedy and strategy toward advancing equitable birth outcomes in Buncombe County; and

WHEREAS, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action is dedicated to the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide, with the annual international observance of World Breast Feeding Week August 1-7; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners declares the County of Buncombe to be a Breastfeeding Family Friendly Community.

This 20th day of August, 2024.

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners